



Brownfields 2008 Grant Fact Sheet

Metropolis, IL

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under this law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The City of Metropolis was selected to receive a brownfields cleanup grant. Metropolis (population 6,482) is located in southern Illinois across the Ohio River from Paducah, Kentucky. It is a small city where the median household income is 54 percent of the state median, and the poverty rate is more than one-and-a-half times the state rate. The city has a larger minority population than the surrounding Massac County. Metropolis is targeting the former Laidlaw site for cleanup. Contaminated groundwater from the site flows into the Ohio River. The site, which is situated across from low-income multi-family housing, includes a cluster of deteriorating buildings behind a fence and barbed wire. It is a highly visible eyesore between the neighborhood and the scenic Ohio River and adjoining

Cleanup Grant

New
2008

\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the City of Metropolis for a brownfields cleanup grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to clean up the former Laidlaw site at 1212 East Fifth Street. The site was used for nearly a century to manufacture wire clothes hangers and a variety of chemical cleaning products, including dry cleaning solvents. Site soil and groundwater are contaminated with metals, chlorinated solvents, and semi-volatile organic compounds.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 5 Brownfields Team
312-886-7576
<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields>

Grant Recipient: City of Metropolis, IL
618-524-4016

The information presented in this fact sheet comes from the grant proposal; EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. The cooperative agreement for the grant has not yet been negotiated. Therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

state park. It detracts from the aesthetics and recreational use of the river, and raises health and safety concerns for area residents. Site cleanup is expected to facilitate redevelopment, attract new businesses to the community, and help revitalize the Metropolis riverfront area.